[31st October 1931

Breach of Gandhi-Irwin Pact by Government subordinates.

* 435 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have, on enquiry, found any actual breach of any of the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact and whether the Government have in such cases drawn the attention of their subordinates to avoid such breach?

A.—The breaches of the settlement brought to the notice of the Government have been mainly by persons picketing shops. In cases in which any Government officer has misinterpreted the orders relating to the observance of the settlement his attention has been drawn to the matter.

Circular by the Collector of Chittoor regarding Congress activities in the Chandragiri taluk.

* 436 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the circular (copy) annexed herewith was published by the District Collector of Chittoor and distributed in the Chandragiri taluk by the Tahsildar;

(*b*) under whose instructions was the circular issued;

(*c*) from what material was the information contained in the circular drawn; and

(*d*) whether any oral instructions were conveyed by the Collector of Chittoor or the District Superintendent of Police to all their officials or subordinates in the district to prevent Congressmen from holding meetings, processions or propaganda?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The circular [a] in question was not published by the Collector of Chittoor. It was issued by the Tahsildar of Chandragiri to the village officers of his taluk on his own authority.

(*c*) The circular was based on an order issued by the Collector to Magistrates as to the action to be taken in certain eventualities.

(*d*) No.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"It is said that the Tahsildar of Chandragiri was responsible for the issue of that circular. May I know if the Government are satisfied that the circular was issued without the sanction of the Collector of Chittoor?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir. The Government are satisfied."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 338 infra.

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know whether any disciplinary action was taken against this Tahsildar for having issued a circular without the Collector's sanction?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government have adversely commented on the conduct of the Tahsildar."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Have the Government heard that any disciplinary action was taken in his case?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"It is said that the circular issued was based on an order of the Collector to Magistrates as to the action to be taken in certain eventualities. How did the Collector foresee these eventualities?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"At the time when Mr. Gandhi refused to go to the Round Table Conference, the District Magistrate thought that there might be a resumption of the civil disobedience movement and a definite breach of the Pact, and so he issued those orders."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Did the Collector's circular say that Congressmen should be treated as enemies to the Government?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not remember. Perhaps he has said so."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Does the Government think that the Collector was right in thinking that the Pact would be broken when Mr. Gandhi refused to go at first?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"In case there was a resumption of the civil disobedience movement, he wanted his officers to be ready prepared."

Issue of an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, by the Sub-Magistrates of Chittoor, Tirupati, Puttur and Kuppam.

* 437 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code by the Sub-Magistrates of Chittoor, Tirupati, Puttur and Kuppam, to prevent the hoisting of the new national flag were issued on or about 30th August 1931 under instructions of the District Magistrate, Chittoor;

(*b*) whether identical information was laid before each of the sub-magistrates referred to in clause (*a*); and

(*c*) whether the orders issued by the various sub-magistrates referred to in clause (*a*) are all copies of the draft order circulated by the District Magistrate for the information and guidance of the sub-magistrates concerned?